

**A. DONALD McEACHIN**

4TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

**WASHINGTON OFFICE**

314 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-6365

**RICHMOND DISTRICT OFFICE**

110 N. ROBINSON ST. SUITE 401  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23220  
(804) 486-1840



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-4604**

**COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES**

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**FRANKING COMMISSION**

July 14, 2017

Mr. R. Alexander Acosta  
Secretary of Labor  
United States Department of Labor  
200 Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20210

Ms. Megan Brennan  
Postmaster General  
United States Postal Service  
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW  
Washington, D.C. 20260

Dear Postmaster General Brennan and Secretary Acosta:

The hazardous working conditions at the Westhampton Station post office in Richmond, Virginia require immediate attention — and I ask you to ensure that those conditions are immediately addressed. As of Thursday, United States Postal Service (USPS) employees were working without functional air conditioning in the mail sorting area, with indoor temperatures reportedly reaching 90 degrees. Occupational heat exposure poses significant health risks for workers, potentially resulting in a range of maladies, including exhaustion, heat cramps, and strokes. The heat index in the summer in Richmond often exceeds 100 degrees, and it is unacceptable for USPS employees to work in such conditions without adequate air conditioning.

Due to the perilous setting of the Westhampton Station, USPS workers were forced to walk off the job this week, leaving the post office unable to effectively perform its duties and responsibilities. This situation not only harms the hard-working employees of the USPS, but it also negatively impacts my constituents who rely on this post office to process and deliver their mail daily.

I understand that the USPS has installed or will soon be installing portable air conditioning units to address the problems at Westhampton Station post office. Until and unless these units are installed and fully functional, the sorting area should be closed so that workers are not exposed to such unacceptable conditions. I urge you to ensure that a permanent solution to this problem is swiftly implemented, so that USPS employees can do their jobs safely and that my constituents can continue to receive their mail in a timely fashion.

Please keep me updated on any actions taken to correct this problem by contacting Tara Adams, my District Representative, at 804-486-1840 or at [tara.adams@mail.house.gov](mailto:tara.adams@mail.house.gov). I look forward to resolving this issue.

Sincerely,

*A. Donald McEachin*

A. Donald McEachin  
Member of Congress, VA-04